

of the country. I ask the Government to crown their work by an act of high policy and of wise foresight, which will ensure to them the gratefulness and hearty support of the people of the whole Dominion of Canada, which they will thus continue to make happier, greater and more prosperous.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I congratulate the hon. gentleman on the able speech he has made. He is very favorable, as we all are, to opening commercial relations with France. Of course, as the hon. gentleman has shown, negotiations had been carried on between this country, through the ambassador at Paris and the High Commissioner at London, and France. These negotiations lasted for several years. I hope with the hon. gentleman that the time will come very soon when these negotiations will be resumed, and that they will come to such a result as will be a benefit to Canada as well as France. No doubt also the result can be obtained without too great sacrifice on our part; but if we have to make a sacrifice, we must expect that this country, with which we will have to deal, will make a corresponding sacrifice. That is the only way in which we can obtain a reciprocity between the two countries. I have no objection to the papers being produced, and they will be brought down as soon as possible.

Mr. LAURIER. (Translation.) If the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Amyot) will allow me I will offer him my most sincere congratulations for the speech he has just made. With the exception of his peroration in which I think he has been rather exaggerated in his praise of the National Policy, I would be ready to endorse all that he has said. I must congratulate him especially on the progress which I think I have remarked in his ideas. If I remember rightly, three years ago, when the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) made his motion in favor of commercial treaties, my hon. friend from Bellechasse voted against that proposition. I do not know if I am right in stating that such were the views he held at that time, but I am under the impression that he then voted against the proposition of the hon. member for West Durham. If such a proposition was made now, I presume, from what he has said to-night, that he would give a vote different from the vote he has given at that time. He has so well demonstrated the importance for the country to have direct commercial relations with France that he must admit that it would be equally important to negotiate our commercial treaties ourselves. He has shown, in an unquestionable manner, to what an extent it would be advantageous to us to export our produce directly to France and to have commercial relations with that country. Well, is it not evident, Mr. Speaker, that it would be equally advantageous to Canada, if we could negotiate our commercial treaties ourselves? And the hon. member would more rapidly attain the object he has in view if we could send our delegate directly to France without obliging him to pass through the medium of London officials. Again I congratulate my hon. friend on the progress of his ideas. "Paris was not built in one day" according to the old French proverb; but I hope that when the proposition is made again—if it is ever made—my hon. friend will see fit to favor it, for it could have no other result than to enable him to obtain that which he desires to obtain.

Mr. AMYOT. (Translation.) In answer to what has just been said by my hon. friend, the member for East Quebec (Mr. Laurier), I must say that when the question of the importance for the Canadian Government to negotiate their treaties themselves was discussed, I was obliged to oppose it because it was untimely, and appeared to me to be incompatible with our position as a colony. If we wish to have the protection of the British flag, if we wish to cross the seas with safety under the British flag, if we wish to enjoy the advantages of English diplomacy, we must remain a

colony. As long as we will not have our independence, we will be unable of making, ourselves, our treaties with other countries. But I think England gives us all the possible latitude and facilities. She makes us virtually independent, and allows us to treat with other countries, through the medium of her agents and of our delegates. We are really cumulating the advantages of an independent state with those of a colony. When the hon. member for West Durham made the motion to which my hon. friend has just referred, the Government were making efforts to have their delegate accredited at London with regard to other countries. To vote for his motion would have been to unjustly vote non-confidence in the Government on a measure which they favored and which they were preparing through constitutional means. It would also have been voting non-confidence in the colonial office. It would have been committing an unjustifiable and uncolonial act. Canada must congratulate the Government for having obtained from England, permission to treat almost directly. I can only desire that England may continue to give us as much freedom as she now gives us with regard to our commercial relations. All of this agrees with the speech I have just made, and nothing could induce me to regret the vote I have given on the occasion to which my hon. friend has just referred, nor to give a different vote should the question be raised anew.

Motion agreed to.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FISHERMEN—REFUND OF DUTIES.

Mr. MILLS for (Mr. DAVIES) moved :

For a copy of the report of the commissioner appointed to enquire into the claims of the merchants and fishermen of Prince Edward Island for a refund of duties paid by them in the years 1871 and 1872, on fish exported to the United States. Also a copy of the evidence taken by such commissioner, together with all instructions furnished to said commissioner, and all correspondence between the commissioner and the Government, or any of the Departments, relating to said refund, or to the evidence or report of the said commissioner.

He said: I desire to have the words: "also a copy of the evidence taken by such commissioner" struck out, as this would take some time, and Mr. Davies is anxious to get the information as soon as possible.

Motion agreed to.

STEAMER *SIR JAMES DOUGLAS*' REPAIRS.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria) moved :

For copies of all correspondence of a date subsequent to 1st January, 1883, upon the subject of repairs to, hauling out, and launching of the steamer *Sir James Douglas* in the early part of said year, between the Department of Marine and Fisheries and their agent at Victoria, B.C., and between the Department and any other person or persons in the Province of British Columbia upon said subject; also copies of reports sent in to the Department by the agent in British Columbia and the master of the steamer referred to, in connection with the serious and unpleasant difference of opinion which arose between them, reflecting discreditably upon themselves and the Department; also all correspondence upon that or any other subject between the Department and any British Columbia member or other person, in any way reflecting upon the agent of the Department in British Columbia, to date.

He said: I notice that the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is out of his seat, and therefore I presume it would be a little out of place for me to make any very lengthy remarks on this subject, reflecting on the Department of which he is the distinguished head. I may state, for the information of members, however, that the main reason for my calling for this correspondence is, that last year I asked for the same correspondence, but unhappily did not get it. I therefore consider it incumbent on me to call for it this year, more particularly in reference to the repairs to the steamer *Sir James Douglas*. In connection with this subject, I may say that the expenditure on that vessel was considerably enhanced by the conduct of the agent of the Marine and Fisheries Department towards the artisans employed on the vessel. Reports have also been sent in to the Department,